FILED
AUG 19 1985
JOSEPH F. SPANIOL, JR.
CLERK

No. 85-104

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

October Term, 1985

IN RE WELFARE OF
D.K.

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

WILLIAM J. GATTON
808 East Franklin Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 871-4886
Attorney for Petitioner

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, III
Minnesota Attorney General
102 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155
THOMAS J. JOHNSON
Hennepin County Attorney
VERNON E. BERGSTROM
Chief, Appellate Section
By: BEVERLY J. WOLFE
Assistant County Attorney
Phone: (612) 348-8794
C-2000 Government Center
Minneapolis, MN 55487
Attorneys for Respondent

224-7631 — Review Publishing Co., 287 E. 6th St., St. Paul, Minn. 55101 — 224-7631

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

38 pp

QUESTION PRESENTED

Where a juvenile waives his statutory right to a trial before the juvenile court judge in the first instance thereby consenting to a trial before a juvenile court referee who is a licensed attorney, is the additional statutory requirement that the referee's findings and recommendations do not become final until they are confirmed by the juvenile court judge consistent with fundamental fairness?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Question Presented	i
Table of Authorities	iii
Opinions	1
Statement of Jurisdictional Grounds	2
Constitutional Provisions, State Statutes and Rules	2
Statement of the Case	6
Reasons for Denying the Writ	10
I. The Question Presented Is Not Of Sufficient Constitutional Importance To Merit Review By This Court	10
II. The Procedural Framework By Which The Juvenile Court Judge Reviewed And Affirmed The Referee's Findings Was Adequate To Protect Petitioner's Rights And Does Not Raise An Issue Of National Importance To The Administration Of Justice In Juvenile Proceedings	11
Conclusion	15
Appendix	A-1

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Cases:	Page
In re Appeal in Pima County, 129 Ariz. 371, 631 P.2d 526 (1981)	13
In re Welfare of D.K., 363 N.W.2d 877 (Minn. Ct. App. 1985)	9
In re Welfare of C.W.S., 267 N.W.2d 496 (Minn. 1978)	7, 12
McKeiver v. Pennsylvania, 403 U.S. 528 (1971)	11, 13-14
Swisher v. Brady, 438 U.S. 204 (1978)	12, 14
United States v. Raddatz, 447 U.S. 667, *reh. den.* 448 U.S. 916 (1980)	10-11
Constitutional Provisions:	
United States Const., amend. XIV, §1	2
Statutory Provisions:	
28 U.S.C. §636(b)(1) (1976)	10
28 U.S.C. §1257(3) (1985)	2
Minn. Stat. §260.015, Subd. 5 (1983)	6
Minn. Stat. §260.031 (1983)	2-4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12
Minn. Stat. §484.70, Subd. 6 (1983)	4, 6, 10
Minn. Stat. §609.53, Subd. 1(1) (1983)	6
Minn. Stat. §609.53, Subd. 1(2) (1983)	6
Procedural Rules:	
Minn.R.Pro.Juv.Ct. 2	4-6, 7, 8,10, 12
Minn.R.Pro.Juv.Ct. 34.02	6

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

October Term, 1985

No. 85-104

IN RE WELFARE OF
D.K.

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE
COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the Minnesota Court of Appeals, reproduced and attached as Respondent's Appendix I, is reported at 363 N.W.2d 877 (Minn. Ct. App. 1985). The order of the Minnesota Supreme Court denying review, reproduced and attached hereto as Respondent's Appendix II, is unreported. The opinions of the Hennepin County Juvenile Court, reproduced and attached hereto as Respondent's Appendices III and IV, are unreported.

STATEMENT OF JURISDICTIONAL GROUNDS

The judgment of the Minnesota Court of Appeals was entered on March 12, 1985. The order by the Minnesota Supreme Court denying review of this judgment was entered on May 20, 1985. A petition for a writ of certiorari was filed with this Court within sixty days of the entry of that order. Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. §1257(3) (1985).

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS, STATE STATUTES AND RULES

United States Const., amend. XIV, §1:

> All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Minn. Stat. §260.031 (1983):

> Referee
>
> Subdivision 1. Appointment. The chief judge of the judicial district may appoint one or more suitable persons to act as referees. All referees are subject to the administrative authority and assignment power of the chief judge of the district as provided in section 484.69, subdivision 3, and are not limited to assignment to juvenile court. Referees shall hold office at the pleasure of the judges of the

district court and shall be learned in the law, except that persons holding the office of referee on January 1, 1983, may continue to serve under the terms and conditions of their appointment. The compensation of a referee shall be fixed by the judge, approved by the county board and payable from the general revenue funds of the county not otherwise appropriated. Part time referees holding office in the second judicial district pursuant to this subdivision shall cease to hold office on July 31, 1984.

Subd. 2. The judge may direct that any case or class of cases shall be heard in the first instance by the referee in the manner provided for the hearing of cases by the court.

Subd. 3. Upon the conclusion of the hearing in each case, the referee shall transmit to the judge all papers relating to the case, together with his findings and recommendations in writing. Notice of the findings of the referee together with a statement relative to the right of rehearing shall be given to the minor, parents, guardian, or custodian of the minor whose case has been heard by the referee, and to any other person that the court may direct. This notice may be given at the hearing, or by certified mail or other service directed by the court.

Subd. 4. The minor and his parents, guardians, or custodians are entitled to a hearing by the judge of the juvenile court if, within three days after receiving notice of the findings of the referee, they file a request with the court for a hearing. The court may allow such a hearing at any time.

Subd. 5. In case no hearing before the judge is requested, or when the right to a hearing is waived, the findings and recommendations of the referee become the

decree of the court when confirmed by an order of the judge. The final order of the court shall, in any event, be proof of such confirmation, and also of the fact that the matter was duly referred to the referee.

Minn. Stat. §484.70, Subd. 6 (1983):

Subd. 6. No referee may hear a contested trial, hearing, motion or petition if a party or attorney for a party objects in writing to the assignment of a referee to hear the matter. The court shall by rule, specify the time within which an objection must be filed.

Rule 2 of the Minnesota Rules of Procedure for Juvenile Court:

Rule 2.01. Authorization to Hear Cases

A referee may hear, as authorized by statute, any matter under the jurisdiction of the court in the manner provided for the hearing of matters by the court.

Rule 2.02. Objection to Assignment of Referee

The child's counsel or the county attorney may object to a referee presiding at a hearing. This objection shall be in writing and filed with the court within three (3) days after being informed that the matter is to be heard by a referee or the right to object is waived. The court may permit the filing of a written objection to a referee at any time. After the filing of an objection, a judge shall hear any motion and preside at any hearing.

Rule 2.03. Transmittal of Findings

Upon the conclusion of a hearing the referee shall transmit to the judge findings and recommendations in writing. Notice of the findings of the referee together with a statement relative to the right to a review before

a judge shall be given either orally on the record, or in writing to the child, the child's counsel, the child's parent(s) and guardian, and their counsel, the county attorney and to any other person that the court may direct.

Rule 2.04. Review

Subd. 1. Generally. A matter which has been decided by a referee may be reviewed in whole or in part by a judge.

Subd. 2. Filing. A motion for a review by a judge must be filed with the court within ten (10) days after the referee's findings and recommendations have been provided, pursuant to Rule 10.

Subd. 3. Right of Review Upon Filing of Timely Motion.

(A) *Right of Child.* The child is entitled to a review by a judge in any matter upon which a referee has made findings or recommendations.

(B) *Right of County Attorney.* The county attorney is entitled to a review by a judge from any pretrial findings or recommendations of a referee except those dismissing a petition for lack of probable cause. The county attorney is not entitled to a review by a judge after jeopardy has attached.

(C) *Right of Parent(s) and Guardian.* The child's parent(s) and guardian are entitled to a review by a judge of a referee's findings or recommendations made after the allegations of a petition have been proved.

Subd. 4. The Court. The judge may grant a review at any time before confirming the findings and recommendations of the referee.

Subd. 5. Procedure. A review by a judge may be on the verbatim recording made pursuant to Rule 11 or may be de novo in whole or in part.

Rule 2.05. Order of the Court

The findings and recommendations of the referee become the order of the court when confirmed by the judge, subject to review pursuant to Rule 2.04.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On August 5, 1983, a delinquency petition was filed in Hennepin County Juvenile-District Court charging D.K.,[1] the Petitioner in this case, with one count of Receiving Stolen Property over $150 in violation of Minn. Stat. §609.53, Subd. 1(1) (1983).[2] Petitioner, who was 17 years old at the time of the charged offense, was arraigned on this petition in Hennepin County Juvenile Court on September 26, 1983. At this arraignment, the petitioned offense was amended to the charge of Receiving Stolen Property Over $300 in violation of Minn. Stat. §609.53, Subd. 1(2) (1983). Petitioner entered a denial to the petitioned offense and a court trial on the petition was scheduled before a referee.

Under both Minn. Stat. §260.031, Subd. 2 (1983) and Minn. R.Pro.Juv.Ct. 2.01 juvenile court referees are authorized to hear any juvenile court case in the first instance. However, Minn. Stat. § 484.70, Subd. 6 (1983) grants to any party in a contested proceeding the statutory right to object to assign-

---

[1] Because of the confidentiality rules pertaining to juvenile court records in Minnesota, Petitioner's name will not be used in this Brief and he will be referred to by the initials "D.K." *See* Minn. R.Pro.Juv.Ct. 34.02. Pursuant to this rule, Respondent has used on its brief cover the case title of the Minnesota Court of Appeals' decision rather than the title used in the petition for writ of certiorari.

[2] In the State of Minnesota, a delinquent child is one who has violated the state or local laws as they are set forth in Minn. Stat. §260.015, Subd. 5 (1983).

ment of a referee and have his case heard by a judge. The procedure for objecting to a referee in juvenile court is governed by Minn.R.Pro.Juv.Ct. 2.02. Under this rule any party may assert their right to a judge trial by filing a written objection to a referee trial with the court "within three (3) days after being informed that the matter is to be heard by a referee or the right to object is waived." Minn.R.Pro.Juv. Ct. 2.02.

Prior to his trial, Petitioner did not make any objection to the assignment of a referee to his case. A court trial on the delinquency petition was held on October 26, 1983, before The Honorable Thomas F. Haeg, Referee of Hennepin County Juvenile Court. At the conclusion of this trial, the referee found that the offense alleged in the petition had been proven.

Following an adverse finding from a juvenile court referee, a juvenile has the right pursuant to Minn. Stat. §260.031, Subd. 4 (1983) to a hearing before the juvenile court judge.[3] The procedures by which a juvenile may seek review of a referee's findings are set forth in Minn.R.Pro.Juv.Ct. 2.04. If a juvenile moves for review, the juvenile court judge shall review the referee's findings and this review "may be on the verbatim recording . . . or may be de novo in whole or in part." Minn.R.Pro.Juv.Ct. 2.04, Subd. 5. If a juvenile does not seek review before the juvenile court judge, the findings and recommendations of the referee "become the decree of the court when confirmed by an order of the judge." Minn. Stat. §260.031, Subd. 5 (1983).

---

[3] Only a juvenile can appeal a referee's findings once jeopardy has attached in a case. *See In re Welfare of C.W.S.*, 267 N.W.2d 496, 498-99 (Minn. 1978) (State's appeal of referee's findings after trial is not authorized by statute). *See also* Minn.R.Pro.Juv.Ct. 2.04, Subd. 3(B) ("county attorney is not entitled to review by a judge after jeopardy has attached").

Pursuant to Minn.R.Pro.Juv.Ct. 2.04, Subd. 5, Petitioner filed a formal motion for review requesting a trial de novo before the juvenile court judge. Petitioner alleged the following three grounds in support of his motion for a trial de novo: (1) that Minn. Stat. §260.031, Subd. 4 guarantees a juvenile a right to a trial de novo before a judge following a trial before a referee; (2) that he did not knowingly waive his right to object to a trial before a referee; and (3) that confirmation of a referee's findings and recommendations by a judge who did not preside at trial violated the due process clause to the United States Constitution.

On February 23, 1984, a hearing on Petitioner's motion was held before The Honorable Allen Oleisky, Judge of Juvenile Court. Petitioner's trial counsel had previously withdrawn from the case and Petitioner was represented by a different counsel at this hearing. Petitioner testified that his trial counsel did not advise him of his right to object to a trial before a referee. Petitioner did not offer any testimony by his trial counsel to corroborate this testimony.

On March 7, 1984, the juvenile court judge issued an order denying Petitioner's motion for a new trial. In denying the motion, the judge found that Petitioner failed to establish that his trial counsel did not advise him of his right to object to a trial before a referee and, hence, it must be assumed that Petitioner knowingly and intelligently waived this right.

Following denial of his motion for a de novo trial, Petitioner moved the juvenile court judge to review the referee's findings and recommendations on the verbatim record. This review was granted. Following a formal review hearing, a review of the written record and the submission of memoranda by both parties, The Honorable Allen Oleisky issued

an order on July 27, 1984, affirming the referee's findings that the offense alleged in the delinquency petition had been proven.

On March 12, 1985, the Minnesota Court of Appeals affirmed both juvenile court orders in *In re Welfare of D.K.*, 363 N.W.2d 877 (Minn. Ct. App. 1985). In this opinion, the Minnesota Court of Appeals held that Minn. Stat. §260.031, Subd. 4 does not guarantee a juvenile the right to a trial de novo before a judge after the case has been heard by a referee. The Minnesota Court of Appeals further held that the juvenile court judge correctly found that Petitioner waived his right to object to a trial before a referee. In rejecting Petitioner's due process objection to the confirmation of a referee's findings and recommendations by a judge who did not preside at trial, the Minnesota Court of Appeals noted the following:

> The referee that heard D.K.'s juvenile proceeding was an attorney licensed under Minnesota law, and the proceeding was conducted in the same manner as it would have been before a judge. In addition, a juvenile has the right under Minn. Stat. §484.70, subd. 6 (1982), to object to the assignment of a referee to hear "a contested trial, hearing, motion or petition." Because this framework adequately protects juveniles' due process rights, we need not expand the scope of the hearing provided under §260.031 beyond that intended by the legislature.

D.K., 363 N.W.2d at 880.

Petitioner filed a petition for review of this decision with the Minnesota Supreme Court. On May 20, 1985, this petition was denied.

REASONS FOR DENYING THE WRIT

I. THE QUESTION PRESENTED IS NOT OF SUFFICIENT CONSTITUTIONAL IMPORTANCE TO MERIT REVIEW BY THIS COURT.

Petitioner was afforded the right to have his trial conducted before the juvenile court judge who confirmed the referee's findings and recommendations. Both Minn. Stat. §484.70, Subd. 6 and Minn.R.Pro.Juv.Ct. 2.02 allowed Petitioner to object to the assignment of a referee to his case. Had Petitioner objected to assignment of a referee prior to trial, the judge entering the final order in this case would have also presided at Petitioner's trial. Thus, Petitioner's waiver of his right to a trial before a referee also constituted a waiver of his right to have the formal confirmation of the trial findings entered by a judge who presided at his trial. Petitioner's waiver of this right nullifies any constitutional objection he may have had to this procedure.

Petitioner refers to dictum in this Court's decision in *United States v. Raddatz*, 447 U.S. 667, *reh. den.* 448 U.S. 916 (1980) in support of his claim that confirmation of a referee's trial findings by a judge who did not preside at trial violates the due process clause of the United States Constitution. In *Raddatz*, this Court upheld the constitutionality of a provision of the Federal Magistrates Act, 28 U.S.C. §636 (b)(1) (1976) which permitted a district court to refer a suppression of evidence motion in a criminal proceeding to a magistrate for a hearing. The statute further authorized the district court to then decide the suppression motion based upon the written record developed before a magistrate, including the magistrate's proposed findings of fact and recommendations. In upholding the validity of the district court's de novo

suppression determination made upon a written record, this Court noted that "the process due at a suppression hearing may be less demanding and elaborate than the protections accorded the defendant at the trial itself." *Raddatz*, 447 U.S. at 679.

Petitioner's reliance upon this dictum in *Raddatz* in support of his claim is misplaced. In *Raddatz* the suppression hearing was referred to a magistrate over the defendant's objections. In contrast, Petitioner's case would not have been referred to a referee had a timely objection been made. There is nothing in this Court's decision in *Raddatz* that indicates that due process requires that the juvenile court judge making the final confirmation of a finding of fact also preside at the trial when the juvenile has elected to have his trial before a referee.

II. THE PROCEDURAL FRAMEWORK BY WHICH THE JUVENILE COURT JUDGE REVIEWED AND AFFIRMED THE REFEREE'S FINDINGS WAS ADEQUATE TO PROTECT PETITIONER'S RIGHTS AND DOES NOT RAISE AN ISSUE OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN JUVENILE PROCEEDINGS.

This Court has stated that "the applicable due process standard in juvenile proceedings . . . is fundamental fairness." *McKeiver v. Pennsylvania*, 403 U.S. 528, 543 (1971). Examination of the statutory framework for trials before juvenile court referees demonstrates that this framework fully complies with the requirements of fundamental fairness.

Under the present statutory framework, a juvenile who consents to a trial before a referee is entitled to all of the constitutional procedural guarantees that he would be entitled to

in a trial before a judge. A referee's trial findings are then advisory in nature until confirmed by the juvenile court judge. *See* Minn. Stat. §260.031, Subd. 5 (1983). Although a referee's findings are technically only advisory until confirmed by the judge, referee trial findings that are favorable to a juvenile are final for all practical purposes since there is no statutory authority for the State to seek review of these findings. *See In re Welfare of C.W.S.*, 267 N.W.2d 496, 498-99 (Minn. 1978); Minn.R.Pro.Juv.Ct. 2.04, Subd. 3(3). Thus, this statutory scheme both accords the juvenile the additional right of having the judge review referee trial findings that are adverse to the juvenile and shields the juvenile from any review of referee trial findings that are favorable to the juvenile.

Petitioner alleges that the statutory provision delegating the final confirmation power to the judge results in the judge, rather than the referee, being the trier of fact. He further alleges that when the judge confirms a referee's findings without actually hearing the witnesses' testimony, he is making a determination of witness credibility without observing the demeanor of the witness. Accordingly, Petitioner argues that this review procedure denies him his right to have the trier of fact present at his trial.

Petitioner's argument is based upon an overly formal view of the relationship between referee and judge with respect to the factfinding function. Unless de novo review is granted, the referee is the trier of fact and is the one who determines witness credibility. In reviewing the referee's findings, the role performed by the judge is more analogous to the role of an appellate court with broad powers of review than it is to the role of a trier of fact. *See generally Swisher v. Brady*, 438 U.S. 204, 222 (1978) (Marshall, J., dissenting) (the "appropriate analogy" to the functional relationship between the

master and judge in Maryland juvenile court is that "between a trial judge and an appellate court with unusually broad powers of review").

The juvenile court judge only assumes the role of trier of fact when he grants de novo review. If de novo review is granted, the judge then is personally present at the trial proceedings. Furthermore, since there is no statutory authorization to permit the State to seek review of a referee's trial findings, a juvenile is shielded from any possibility that the judge will make independent credibility determinations that are adverse to the juvenile without personally observing the witness' demeanor. *See generally In re Appeal in Pima County*, 129 Ariz. 371, 631 P.2d 526, 530 (1981) (Arizona Supreme Court held that reversal by juvenile court judge of juvenile court referee's factual findings that juvenile had not committed delinquent act violated due process where judge rejected referee's credibility assessments favorable to juvenile without personally hearing the disputed testimony and without giving valid reasons to support rejection).

Assignment of a juvenile court referee to a juvenile delinquency proceeding is consistent with fundamental fairness.[4]

---

[4] Utilizing the fundamental fairness standard, this Court has held that due process does not mandate application of all the constitutional guarantees that exist in adult criminal proceedings to juvenile delinquency proceedings. *See McKeiver v. Pennsylvania*, 403 U.S. 528, 533 (1971). Instead, this Court has applied to juvenile proceedings only those constitutional protections which have an emphasis on accurate factfinding. Examples of such factfinding protections include "notice, counsel, confrontation, cross examination and standard of proof." *Id.* at 533. This court has declined to impose constitutional guarantees upon state juvenile proceedings when these guarantees are not a "necessary component of accurate factfinding." *Id.* at 543. Consequently, this court has held that trial by jury is not required in a juvenile delinquency proceeding since

The present statutory framework serves to only enhance, not deny, this fairness by according a juvenile the right to have a referee's trial findings reviewed by the juvenile court judge. This enhancement of due process also protects a juvenile from the possibility that a judge reviewing his case will make an independent assessment of witness credibility that is adverse to the juvenile without actually observing the witness' demeanor. Consequently, Petitioner's claim that the affording of this additional review protection to juveniles violates the due process clause is without merit and does not raise an issue of national importance to the administration of justice in the juvenile system.

---

it has determined that jury trials would not "strengthen greatly, if at all, the factfinding function." *Id.* at 547. Similarly, fundamental fairness does not require the designation of a judge rather than a referee as trier of fact since the distinction is merely a matter of the technical labeling applied to the respective positions and this labeling does not affect the accuracy of the factfinding process. This is especially true in this case since the referee was a licensed attorney. *See Swisher v. Brady*, 438 U.S. 204, 222 (1978) (Marshall, J., dissenting) ("a State is, of course, free to designate a 'master,' a 'judge,' or some other officer to conduct juvenile adjudicatory hearings").

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the State of Minnesota respectfully prays that this Court deny the petition for a writ of certiorari to the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

DATED: August 16, 1985

Respectfully submitted,

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, III
Minnesota Attorney General
102 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155
THOMAS L. JOHNSON
Hennepin County Attorney
VERNON E. BERGSTROM
Chief, Appellate Section
By: BEVERLY J. WOLFE
Assistant County Attorney
Phone: 348-8794
C-2000 Government Center
Minneapolis, MN 55487
Attorneys for Respondent

APPENDIX

RESPONDENT'S APPENDIX I

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN COURT OF APPEALS
C8-84-1423

Hennepin County
Juvenile Court Division — Lansing, Judge

IN THE MATTER OF THE
WELFARE OF D.K.

WILLIAM GATTON
Legal Rights Center, Inc.
808 East Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, III
Attorney General
THOMAS L. JOHNSON
Hennepin County Attorney
VERNON E. BERGSTROM
Chief, Appellate Section
BEVERLY J. WOLFE
Assistant County Attorney
C-2000 Government Center
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55487
Filed March 12, 1985
WAYNE TSCHIMPERLE
Clerk
Minnesota Appellate Courts

SYLLABUS

1. Neither Minn. Stat. §260.031, subd. 4 (1982), nor constitutional guarantees of due process accord a juvenile the right to a trial de novo before a juvenile court judge after the case has been heard by a juvenile court referee.

2. Appellant waived his right to object to a hearing before a referee because he was represented by counsel and failed to assert his objection as required by Rule 2.02 of the Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Courts.

Affirmed.

Heard, considered and decided by Lansing, Presiding Judge, Forsberg, Judge, and Leslie, Judge.

OPINION

LANSING, Judge

Appellant, a juvenile, appeals from the trial court's order adjudicating him delinquent on the charge of receiving stolen property. We affirm.

FACTS

Appellant D.K. was charged with receiving stolen property consisting of two children's racing bicycles, each valued in excess of $600, in violation of Minn. Stat. §609.53, subd. 1(2) (1982). A trial on the matter was held before a juvenile court referee, during which D.K was represented by a public defender.

The referee found the petition had been proved beyond a reasonable doubt. D.K. then moved for a new trial before a judge of the juvenile court, contending that the fourteenth amendment of the United States Constitution and Minn. Stat. §260.031, subd. 4 (1982), afforded him the right to a trial de novo before a juvenile court judge. Section 260.031, subd. 4, entitles a juvenile upon proper request to a hearing before a juvenile court judge after a matter has been heard by a referee.

A hearing was held on the motion, during which D.K. testified that neither the referee nor his court-appointed attorney had informed him that he had the right to have his trial before a judge of the juvenile court rather than a referee. He testified that he was not aware of this right.

The trial court denied D.K.'s request for a new trial and gave him ten days to file a motion for review of the referee's order on the verbatim record. D.K. then requested that the juvenile court judge review the referee's findings and recommendations. A hearing was held, and the trial court issued an order affirming the findings of the referee.

ISSUES

1. Does Minn. Stat. §260.031, subd. 4 (1982), or the due process clause of the fourteenth amendment of the United States Constitution mandate that a juvenile be allowed a trial de novo by a juvenile court judge after the case has been heard by a referee?

2. Did appellant waive his right to object to the assignment of a referee to hear his case?

3. Is the trial court's finding that appellant knew or had reason to know the property was stolen sufficient to support an adjudication of guilt as charged?

ANALYSIS

I

Minn. Stat. § 260.031, subd. 4 (1982), provides as follows:

> The minor and his parents, guardians, or custodians are entitled to a hearing by the judge of the juvenile court if, within three days after receiving notice of the findings of the referee, they file a request with the court for a hearing. The court may allow such a hearing at any time.

At issue is the definition of the hearings as it is used in the statute. D.K. argues that "hearing" means a trial de novo.

The State's position is that "hearing" has a broader definition that does not necessarily include a trial de novo and that a trial de novo is discretionary with the juvenile court judge. The State's position is consistent with the past practice of the juvenile courts and with Rule 2.04 of the Minnesota Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Courts (review by a judge of a proceeding heard before a referee "may be on the verbatim recording * * * or may be de novo in whole or in part"). Because rules of court may not abridge or modify substantive rights provided by statute, *see* Minn. Stat. §480.059, subd. 1 (1982), this court may not rely solely on Rule 2.04 to determine the scope of the hearing provided by Minn. Stat. §260.-031, subd. 4, but rather must determine the legislature's intent in drafting the statute.

The nature of the hearing intended under §260.031 is not expressly defined by the statute or by case law. The Interim Commission's comment to the provision, however, supports an interpretation consistent with Rule 2.04 and with the juvenile court's past practice. *See* Minn. Stat. Ann. §260.031, Interim Commission Comment, 1959 (West 1982). The comment says that the language of subdivision 4 is taken from the Hennepin County Juvenile Court Act, 1957 Minn. Laws ch. 742, §4, subd. 2, the review provisions of which did not mandate a de novo trial. The Act further provided that "the findings of the referee [are] prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein," *see id.* ch. 742, §4, subd. 3, indicating that the hearing was primarily intended to be a review of the referee's findings, although the admission of further evidence was not foreclosed.

The Interim Commission's comment to Minn. Stat. §260.031 says, in addition, that the hearing is "not in the nature of an appeal, as it is in the Standard Act," referring to the Standard Juvenile Court Act prepared by the National Council on

Crime and Delinquency. The Standard Act provides, in section 7, for a "hearing de novo" of a referee's findings and recommendations by a juvenile court judge upon request. Section 28 refers to formal appellate court review of juvenile orders. The comment to the Minnesota statute thus indicates that the hearing contemplated under §260.031 is neither a de novo trial nor a formal appeal.

This interpretation is consistent with the legislature's practice of expressly providing for a new trial when that is the legislative intent. *See, e.g.*, Minn. Stat. §260.291, subd. 2(b) (1982) ("The appeal from a probate-juvenile court is taken to the district court which shall try the case de novo") (amended to reflect the creation of the Court of Appeals, 1983 Minn. Laws ch. 247, §111); *id.* §487.30, subd. 1 ("rules * * * shall provide for a right of appeal from the decision of the conciliation court to the county court for a trial on the merits"); *see also* Stuart, *Judicial Powers of Non-Judges: The Legitimacy of Referee Functions in Minnesota Courts*, 6 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 65, 86 (1980) (the right to a "trial de novo" provided adult defendants convicted by nonlawyer judges is different from the corresponding "rehearing before a judge" given juvenile defendants under Minn. Stat. §260.031, subd. 4).

D.K. argues that an adjudication of guilt by a judge who did not preside at the trial violates his due process rights under the United States Constitution. A juvenile court proceeding has not been held to be a criminal prosecution within the meaning of the sixth amendment, *see McKeiver v. Pennsylvania*, 403 U.S. 528, 541 (1971), and the applicable due process standard is "fundamental fairness," *see id.* at 543. The referee that heard D.K.'s juvenile proceeding was an attorney licensed under Minnesota law, and the proceeding was conducted in the same manner as it would have been before a

judge. In addition, a juvenile has the right under Minn. Stat. §484.70, subd. 6 (1982), to object to the assignment of a referee to hear "a contested trial, hearing, motion or petition." Because this framework adequately protects juveniles' due process rights, we need not expand the scope of the hearing provided under §260.031 beyond that intended by the legislature.

II

D.K. testified at trial that he was not informed of his right under Minn. Stat. §484.70, subd. 6, to object to the assignment of a referee to hear his case. He argues that this omission entitles him to a new trial because he could not have knowingly and intelligently waived a right of which he was not aware. Clearly it would have been preferable if the referee had advised D.K. of this important right, whether or not he was represented by counsel. However, despite its importance, the right is a statutory right, not comparable to the fundamental constitutional rights for which courts have traditionally required a knowing and intelligent waiver on the record. *See, e.g., Johnson v. Zerbst,* 304 U.S. 458, 464 (1938) (right to counsel); *Carnley v. Cochran,* 369 U.S. 506, 516 (1962) (right to counsel); *McCarthy v. United States,* 394 U.S. 459, 466 (1969), and *Boykin v. Alabama,* 395 U.S. 238, 243 (1969) (privilege against compulsory self-incrimination, right to trial by jury, right to confront accusers).

Minn. Stat. §484.70, subd. 6, does not require a knowing and intelligent waiver on the record, and the accompanying procedural rule indicates that the right to object to a hearing before a referee is waived if not affirmatively asserted in writing. *See* Minn. R. P. for the Juvenile Cts. 2.02. Because D.K. was represented by counsel and failed to assert this right, he must be deemed to have waived it.

III

The mental state required to sustain a conviction for receiving stolen property under Minn. Stat. §609.53 (1982) is met if the person knew *or* had reason to know that the property was stolen. The petition charged D.K. with possessing stolen property "knowing said property to have been stolen, in violation of Minn. Stat. §609.53, subd. 1(1)." The memorandum attached to the trial court's order affirming the referee's findings said D.K. possessed property, "knowing or having reason to know that the property was stolen." Based on this difference in language, D.K. argues that he was not convicted of the crime with which he was charged, that he was improperly convicted on a finding that he committed the offense in a manner not alleged in the pleading, and that he was not adequately informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him.

The trial court's memorandum merely restated the court's conclusion, framed in the statutory language, that D.K. was guilty of the offense charged. The trial court specifically affirmed the referee's conclusion that the petition had been proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

DECISION

A juvenile is not entitled under Minn. Stat. §260.031, subd. 4, or under the due process clause of the United States Constitution, to a trial de novo after a proceeding before a referee. Although the referee should have informed the juvenile of the right to object to assignment of a referee, failure to do so does not entitle the juvenile to a new trial.

Affirmed.

HARRIET LANSING

March 6, 1985.

RESPONDENT'S APPENDIX II

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN SUPREME COURT

C8-84-1423

IN THE MATTER OF THE
WELFARE OF D.K.

ORDER

Based upon all the files, records and proceedings herein,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the petition of D.K. for further review be, and the same is, denied.

Dated: May 18, 1985.

By the Court:
DOUGLAS K. AMDAHL
Chief Justice

RESPONDENT'S APPENDIX III

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUVENILE COURT DIVISION

D.C. No. 086100-96

IN THE MATTER OF THE WELFARE OF
DERRICK KABANUK

ORDER AND MEMORANDUM

The above-entitled matter came duly on for hearing before the Honorable Allen Oleisky, judge of the above-named Court,

on the 23rd day of February, 1984 at 328 Court House, City of Minneapolis, County of Hennepin, State of Minnesota.

APPEARANCES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Glenn Boyce, Assistant Hennepin County Public Defender, appeared for and on behalf of the Petitioner, State of Minnesota.

Mr. William Gatton, Attorney at Law, Legal Rights Center, appeared for and on behalf of the Respondent, Derrick Kabanuk.

The Court, being duly advised in the premises, hereby makes the following Order:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That Respondent's request for a new trial is hereby denied.

2. That Respondent shall have ten (10) days after receipt of this order to file a motion for review of the Referee's order on the verbatim record.

3. That provided Respondent does not motion the Court for a review on the verbatim record, counsel for the State shall contact the Court to set a disposition hearing.

4. That the attached memorandum shall be made a part of this Order.

By the Court:
ALLEN OLEISKY
Judge of District Court
Juvenile Court Division

Dated this 7th day of March, 1984.

MEMORANDUM

The Respondent in the present case was charged with theft and tried before a Juvenile Court Referee. The Referee has recommended that the petition be found proven true. The issue before the Court is whether Respondent's demand for a new trial must be granted.

Rule 2.04 of the Juvenile Court Rules provides for review of a Referee's trial findings by a Judge. It states in relevant part "A review by a Judge may be on the verbatim record . . . or *may* be de novo in whole or in part." Rule 2.04 (5). (Emphasis added.) It is clear that trial de novo is discretionary rather than mandatory.

Respondent argues that Minnesota Statute §260.031 (4) provides for a trial de novo. It specifies only that, upon proper demand a minor is entitled to "a hearing" by the Judge of the Juvenile Court. The scope or nature of a hearing allowed by Minnesota Statute §260.031 (4) is not, however, defined by statute or case law. The Interim Commission Comment to Minnesota Statute §260.031 (5) cited by Respondent is insufficient to convince the Court that a trial de novo, in this situation, is mandatory. The past practice of this Court shows that this statute has never been interpreted to entitle a juvenile, as a matter of right, to a trial de novo.

Respondent also urges the Court to grant a trial de novo because, as Respondent claims, he was never advised of his right to object to the trial being heard by a Referee. The Court is unable to determine by the record if Respondent was in fact, ever so advised. However, Respondent was represented by counsel and the Court must assume that Respondent's attorney was fully aware that this right existed, and that this right was knowingly and intelligently waived.

Finally, Respondent argues that an adjudication of guilt by a Judge who has not presided at the trial violates due process of law. In all trials heard by Referees, each Respondent is entitled to all Constitutional protections, that he or she would have before a Judge. A trial before a Referee is conducted in precisely the same manner as would be the case before a

Judge. The procedure for hearings before a Referee and confirmation by a Judge set forth in Minnesota Statute §260.-031 and Rule 2 of the Juvenile Court Rules is consistent with due process requirements.

For the reasons set forth above, Respondent's request for a trial de novo is hereby denied.

A.O.

RESPONDENT'S APPENDIX IV

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUVENILE COURT DIVISION

D.C. No. 081600-96

IN THE MATTER OF THE WELFARE OF
DERRICK KABANUK

ORDER

The above-entitled matter came duly on for hearing before the undersigned, one of the Judges of the above-named Court, on May 21, 1984, at 328 Court House, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

APPEARANCES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

William Gatton, Attorney at Law, appeared for and on behalf of the respondent-child.

Glen Boyce, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney, appeared for and on behalf of Hennepin County.

Upon all the files, records, proceedings, together with argument of counsel made in Court, and legal memoranda. the Court makes its Order as follows:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That Referee Haeg's Order of October 26, 1983 finding the Respondent guilty of receiving stolen property is hereby affirmed.

2. That the attached memorandum shall be made a part of this Order.

3. That the matter is scheduled for a Disposition Hearing before Referee Thomas Haeg on August 16, 1984 at 4:00 p.m.

BY THE COURT:
ALLEN OLEISKY
Judge of District Court
Juvenile Court Division

Dated this 27th day of July, 1984.

MEMORANDUM

Respondent appeals from the Referee's Order of May 21, 1984 on three grounds. Respondent argues that the element of knowledge has not been proven beyond a reasonable doubt; that the element of possession of the stolen BXC bicycle was not proven beyond a reasonable doubt; and, the Respondent was denied the effective assistance of counsel at the hearing before the referee.

On August 3, 1983, Respondent was charged with Possession of Stolen Property knowing said property to have been stolen in violation of Minnesota Statute Section 609.53 subd. 1 (1) (1982). This section reads as follows: "Any person who receives, possesses, transfers, buys or conceals any stolen property or property obtained by robbery, knowing or having reason to know the property was stolen or obtained by robbery, may be sentenced as follows. . . ."

To convict a person for receiving or concealing stolen property the state must prove that the respondent received or con-

cealed the property specified in the complaint, that the property had been stolen, and the respondent knew or had reason to know that the property was stolen and nevertheless, intentionally received or concealed it. *See Minn. Stat.* §609.53 Subd. 1 (1) (1982); *see also State v. Melina,* 297 Minn. 342, 345, 210 N.W. 2d 855, —— (1973) (per curiam) (decided prior to 1982 amendment which altered language from statute from "knowing" the property had been stolen to "knowing or having reason to know" the property was stolen).

In the present case, the state proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the property involved, a JMC and a BXC bicycle belonging to David Ralph's children, had been stolen. The state also proved that the respondent received or had possession of the JMC bicycle belonging to Mr. Ralph's daughter, as this was the bike respondent was trying to sell to DeWayne Stein.

The state produced the following evidence to prove that the respondent also possessed the BXC bicycle. First, both bicycles were stolen at the same time. Second, Mr. Ralph testified that the pedals on the JMC bicycle, when it was recovered, were those he had altered and placed on the BXC bicycle prior to its having been stolen. Next, the state demonstrated that the handle bars on the bike that respondent was riding when he came to sell the JMC bike were the ones that Mr. Ralph had altered for use on his son's BXC bike and were the handle bars that had been on that bike when it had been stolen. Mr. Ralph had testified that these handle bars were very uncommon and that he had had to place a special order to get them.

The respondent testified that he received the handle bars from Chuck Zeck and he produced a receipt to corroborate his testimony. Respondent further testified that he bought the JMC in the same condition it was in when he tried to

sell it and he did not buy the handle bars from the same person he bought the bike from.

The evidence regarding the possession of the BXC is insufficient to support a finding that the respondent ever possessed the bike. The fact that the respondent had two parts of the bike in his possession at the time of his arrest, does not, prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the respondent possessed the BXC in its entirety.

The final element that the state must prove is that the respondent knew or had reason to know that the property was stolen and despite that knowledge intentionally received it. The respondent stated that he purchased the JMC from a friend of a friend, but he would not reveal the friend's identity. In direct examination the respondent stated "He told me that he had a friend who knew where he could buy a bike real cheap. He told me the price and what kind of bike it was and everything and—." Trial transcript at 60, lines 12-15. Later, on cross-examination, the respondent stated that he paid $125.00 for the JMC. *See* Trial Transcript at 73, lines 7-14. Yet, the respondent knew the bike had a value of at least $200 to $250 as that is what he was willing to sell it for. The state demonstrated through two witnesses that the bike had a value of $650 to $700. Given the disparity in the bike's actual value what the Respondent paid for it, and what the Respondent was willing to sell it for, it is apparent that he had reason to know that the bike was stolen.

The fact that the respondent parked his car away from Mr. Stein's house because "I didn't want anybody to trace it back to my house in case they didn't buy the bike, and they'd know where the bike was by identifying our car or license plate, so I didn't want them to know where we were from.", Trial Transcript at 70, lines 6-10, also indicates the respondent knew the bike was stolen or had reason to know that it was.

Respondent is guilty of possession of stolen property, with a value in excess of $300 knowing or having reason to know that the property was stolen. *See State v. Simpson*, 298 Minn. 235, 214 N.W. 2d 679 (1974) (jury could properly infer requisite knowledge and wrongful intent from evidence that defendant bought property shortly after it was stolen for price far below its actual value); *State v. Louis*, 285 Minn. 276, 172 N.W. 2d 754 (1969) (defendant's lack of satisfactory explanation for his possession of stolen property is evidence he knew it was stolen). All the circumstances proved by the state are consistent with a finding of guilty and are inconsistent with any rational hypothesis except respondent's guilt.

Respondent's final claim is that he was denied the effective assistance of counsel in violation of the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution and is therefore entitled to reversal. The United States Supreme Court has stated that a defendant making such a claim must identify the acts or omissions of counsel that are alleged not to have been the result of reasonable professional judgment. *Strickland v. Washington*, 35 U.S.L.W. 3066, 3072 (U.S. May 14, 1984). Further, "the defendant must show that there is a reasonable probability that, but for counsel's unprofessional errors, the result of the proceeding would have been different." *Id.* at 3073.

The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals has stated:

> a defendant is not entitled to representation that results in an acquittal, nor is he entitled to the "best possible" representation. Neither is a defendant entitled, at the instance of new or substituted appellate counsel, to have this court review by hindsight tactical decisions made by trial counsel in the course of the trial.

United States v. Rhoads, 617 F.2d 1313, 1319 (8th Cir. 1980).

Respondent claims that court-appointed defense counsel failed to properly investigate the case and develop relevant and material exculpatory evidence. To support his argument, respondent states that defense counsel should have called Chuck Zeck as a witness to corroborate respondent's testimony about the purchase of the handle bars. Respondent states that defense counsel should have called a witness from B.J.'s bike shop to testify as to how common the handle bars are.

Such testimony would relate only to the possession of the BXC and not the JMC. Since respondent was not found guilty of possession of the stolen BXC, the failure to produce such evidence did not prejudice the respondent's case.

Respondent next argues that court-appointed defense counsel could have and should have introduced evidence that Mr. Ralph originally purchased the JMC complete from B.J.'s bike shop for $365.00. Such evidence, while it may have been helpful, would not eliminate the fact that respondent purchased the bike shortly after it had been stolen for far less than its actual value at that time.

Next, respondent argues that court-appointed counsel failed to "properly" examine respondent while he was on the witness stand. Defense counsel did try to elicit from the respondent who he purchased the bike from, however respondent refused to answer with anything other than "a friend of a friend." *See* Trial Transcript at 60, lines 10-19. Respondent cannot now claim that he would have disclosed the name of his friend at trial had his attorney asked more questions. Respondent's failure to disclose information requested by his attorney cannot later be held to be grounds for reversal.

Respondent finally argues that court-appointed counsel should have made a different closing argument. Closing argument, like much of the conduct of a trial, is based on strategy.

When a case is tried before a court without a jury, it is not uncommon for counsel to waive closing arguments.

The statement by trial counsel that "I hold, Your Honor, the evidence is sufficient to find him not guilty of this matter." Trial Transcript at 77, lines 9-10, is an incorrect statement of the law as it apparently shifts the burden from the prosecution to the defense. In front of a jury, such a comment may be reversible error. However, this case was tried before a referee; no jury was present. The Court, being learned in the law, is well acquainted with the fact that the state has the burden of proof in this case. Such comment, though not reasonable, did not prejudice the respondent in any way.

The respondent has failed to show that there is a reasonable probability that the result of the proceeding would have been different had counsel acted differently. Therefore, respondent's conviction cannot be reversed on the claim that he was denied effective assistance of counsel.

A.O.